

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend paragraph 0033 beginning at page 10 with the following amended paragraph:

[0033] Those skilled in the art will appreciate that the modular stent 10 may be manufactured in a variety of ways. For example, individual stent modules 12, 12' may be formed by laser ~~cuffing~~ cutting a ~~cobalt~~ cobalt-nickel alloy steel (MP-35N) tube of a desired diameter to a desired length. In an alternate embodiment, the individual stent modules may be manufactured by deforming a ring of stent material. For instance, the ring may be manufactured from ~~cobalt~~ cobalt-nickel alloy steel (MP-35N). Thereafter, the body openings 24 (see Fig. 2) may be formed in the tube. In an illustrative embodiment, the body openings 24 may be laser cut into the tube thereby forming a stent module. Any number of stent modules may be positioned on a mandrel or other stent module positioning device in preparation to receive the polymer bridge material. The polymer bridge 14 may be applied to at least one surface of the stent modules 12, 12' in a variety of ways, including, for example, dipped, sprayed, or vapor deposited. If desired, a therapeutic agent may be applied to the stent modules 12, 12' prior to, during, or following the application of the polymer bridge material.